

Southeast News

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Conference Minister Emmett Floyd and Rev. Sandra Mullins lead Conference worship.

Grant for Prison Ministry Awarded

The Southern Prisoners Defense Committee, New Orleans, LA has been granted \$4,000 by the United Church of Christ's Office for Church in Society, the Rev. David C. Rohlfig, associate for constituency development with the national church agency, announced recently.

The funds were provided by the Church in Society Offices's Legal Justice for Institutionalized Persons Project, which has been financed from a denominational offering to help "Neighbors in Need."

The grant was given to the Defense Committee, which is part of the Nashville, TN-based Southern Coalition on Jails and Prisons to aid its efforts to support prisoners' Constitutional right to humane treatment, involve prisoners in daily decision-making and organize long-term changes in the penal system. Combating of racism and alternatives to incarceration are of special interest to the Committee.

The Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, will administer the grant.

[Continued on Page 2]

"Acts of the Covenant" Theme of Fifteenth Annual Meeting

"Acts of the Covenant" was the theme of the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ, which met Friday through Sunday, June 19-21 in the gracious accommodations of LaGrange College, located in LaGrange, GA.

One of the largest conferences on record, some 245 persons were registered, including over 50 young people and 197 voting delegates and ministers. Participants represented 51 conference churches.

No stranger to the Southeast Conference, LaGrange College is the site not only of the annual Summer Institute of Religion, but of a number of other SEC educational ventures for both clergy and lay persons held throughout the year. Price Auditorium, where a majority of conference business was transacted, was probably the best meeting area of any previous annual meeting.

Hospitality for the conference was amply provided through the churches of

[Continued on Page 3]



United Congregational Christian Church, UCC, LaGrange, GA was the site for the Annual Meeting Sunday morning worship.



Reflecting the mood of the Annual Meeting are [l-r] Jane Cummings - Secretary, Southeast Conference, Audrey Livingston - Moderator, Alabama-Tennessee Association, and Freda Brown - Moderator, Southeast Conference.



Dr. George Otto, Executive Director,
Stewardship Council

CONFERENCE CORNER

Rev. Warren Blankenhorn

On a recent trip to one of our churches, I passed through a community where a church of another denomination caught my attention. What caught my eye was not the church building, but its sign which read "Church of the Redeemer Gathers Here."

Gathers. That is really a very key word when it comes to the church of Jesus Christ.

On the one hand, it has something to tell us about the process of evangelism in which all of our churches and church members should be involved. For what evangelism is all about is the process of "gathering" people together into a loving community called the church. While it has a beginning in Jesus Christ, this is a process that should have no ending and toward which we should be constantly bending our efforts.

On the other hand, the word "gather" has something else to say about the nature of the church, itself. For, when you think about it, the church is a "gathered" community. It needs neither walls nor roof, Sunday School rooms nor pulpits. But the one indispensable element that it cannot do without is people — people "gathered" to worship God and work for God's Kingdom.

Is your church a "gathered" and a "gathering" community of faith? Think about it!

CURT'S NUGGETS

From the desk of Curtis Schumacher,
Pleasant Hill, TN:

When praying, don't give God instructions — report for duty!

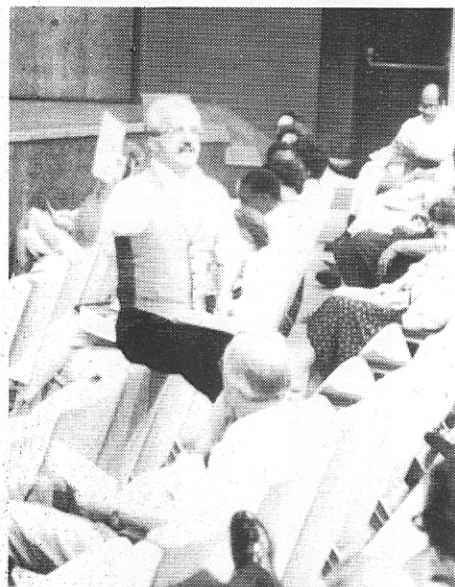
New Budgets Provide Strong Challenge

Two budgets were considered and adopted at the 1981 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference. In considering the 1981 budget mid-way through the year, Conference Minister Dr. Emmett O. Floyd commented that this would be the final year that this procedure would be followed. Henceforth, conference budgets, which follow the calendar year, will be approved at the previous year's Annual Meeting.

In considering both the 1981 and the 1982 budgets, it was pointed out that OCWM contributions from local churches would need to take a quantum leap if expenses of the Conference were to be met. In comparison to actual 1980 OCWM receipts of \$100,887, the 1981 conference budget called for OCWM support for \$123,037 and 1982 support of \$131,002. Without increased OCWM support from local churches, the conference will be faced with either a cut-back in programs and services or increased deficit spending. The total 1980 deficit was \$14,823.

In terms of expenditures, both the 1981 and 1982 budgets showed increases less than the current rate of inflation. The 1980 expenses of \$233,597 were increased in 1981 to a budget of \$255,936. Total expenditures in the approved 1982 budget were \$274,423. Conference support to national for OCWM was also increased from \$30,000 in 1980 to \$33,000 in 1981 and \$36,000 in 1982.

Rev. Floyd Carmack, Chairman of the Outreach Commission, challenged Conference churches to provide the support through which both of these budgets will be met.



Rev. Edwin Mehlhall, Conference Stewardship Consultant, addresses delegates.

Grant for Prison - Cont'd.

The Legal Justice for Institutionalized Persons Project is a two-year program created by the Office for Church in Society to help defend the civil liberties and human rights of persons in prisons, mental hospitals, homes for the aged and other institutions. It will offer workshops and educational materials, in addition to its \$95,000 grant program.

The church agency made \$44,000 in grants at its recent directorate meeting and will issue another \$51,000 later. The ten projects selected this spring provide legal assistance in behalf of the rights of Black, Native American and other prisoners; incarcerated children; nursing home residents, and the mentally ill.



Sunday morning worship at the Conference Annual Meeting.



Southeast Conference General Synod and Board delegates.

Annual Meeting - Cont'd.

the East Alabama Association. In addition to young people who directed traffic, carried luggage to delegates' rooms and manned crosswalks throughout the campus, two bountiful receptions were held in addition to a beverage stand, especially welcome with temperatures that nearly reached 100 degrees.

Getting underway on Friday evening, the conference began on a familiar note with the return of former Conference Minister, William J. Andes, now "retired" and serving as a "part-time" development officer for Elon Home for Children, Elon College, N.C. Presenting a film outlining the story of the Elon Home for Children, Dr. Andes introduced delegates to the Jubilee Celebration to be observed by the Home in 1982 and invited support from delegates and conference churches. Youth activities and a formal reception

concluded the evening.

Following presentation and approval of conference reports, the Saturday morning session of the conference was punctuated by a spirited address by Dr. George Otto, Executive Director of the Stewardship Council. Entitled "People of the Covenant — Bent Toward Freedom," Dr. Otto outlined from an historical perspective the distinctive features of the United Church of Christ and the mission to which we are called in the coming decade.

Prior to the Saturday afternoon break during which special activities were provided for both youth and adults, the conference entertained stimulating dialogue not only concerning General Synod issues, but in regard to a resolution endorsing the Equal Rights Amendment. The ERA resolution prompted debate lengthy enough to force postponement till later in the evening of a portion of the conference devoted to youth. By a vote of 104 to 59, the conference voted to support ERA.

Following a delicious banquet on Saturday evening and addresses by both outgoing Moderator Henry Tuttle and Conference Minister Emmett Floyd, the evening was ended on a humorous note with the graduation ceremonies of Ole Thermometer U.

On Sunday the conference was moved to the sanctuary of LaGrange United Congregational Christian Church where remaining business was conducted and a number of other resolutions were unanimously adopted. The conference ended in a memorable worship service which included anthems by a combined youth choir and a stirring solo by the Rev. James Fields.



Rev. Joyce Myers (r), Office of Church Life and Leadership

New Officers Installed

Prior to the closing worship service on Sunday, June 21, the following sixteen persons were installed as officers in the Southeast Conference. The number in brackets indicates the length of the term.

Moderator (2)	Freda D. Brown
Vice-Moderator (2)	L. Floyd Carmack
Secretary (2)	Jane Cummings
Asst. Secretary (2)	Audrey Livingston
Treasurer (2)	Arthur Smith

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Member-at-Large (3)	W. Walter Hall
Past Moderator	Henry W. Tuttle

COMMISSIONS

Church and Ministry (1) — W. Walter Hall, Coordinator, John R. Lackey, Asst. Coordinator.

Christian Education (2) — Yubenia Prigmore, Coordinator, W. David Chandler, Asst. Coordinator.

Outreach (1) — L. Floyd Carmack, Coordinator, H. Eugene Keen, Asst. Coordinator.

Women in Church and Society (2) — Betty Greene, Co-Coordinator, Carol Jean Delcher, Co-Coordinator.

New Initiatives in Church Development (2) — Henry W. Tuttle.

Some Prince

"The Prince of Peace rode into Jerusalem on an ass, not on a warhorse. Some Prince! The world's rulers know better, today. They spend more than \$275 billion every year for national 'security' and 'peacekeeping.' Meanwhile, every year, they let 500 million humans die, go blind, suffer brain damage, or grow in despair and revolutionary impatience because of their poverty and hunger. Some security! Some peace!"

— George S. Siudy



Installation of Officers



The Women's Task Force performed a skit concerning passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. Louise Cox [r] plays the part of an impatient ERA supporter.

Resolutions Receive Renewed Interest

A total of 15 resolutions were brought before the 1981 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference. A record number in comparison to past years, the resolutions were brought by individuals as well as churches.

Receiving the greatest amount of debate was a resolution proposed by the Conference Task Force on Women in Church and Society endorsing ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. After lengthy discussion, the resolution passed by a two to one margin. In addition to endorsement, the resolution urged "all members, pastors, associations, local churches, women's, men's, and youth groups to study and discuss the Equal Rights Amendment, to promote better public understanding of its meaning and purpose, and to support

ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Other resolutions included:

—Concern for the children of Atlanta and especially for the families of those children recently abducted and murdered;
—A call for further efforts at helping resource local congregations for youth ministry;

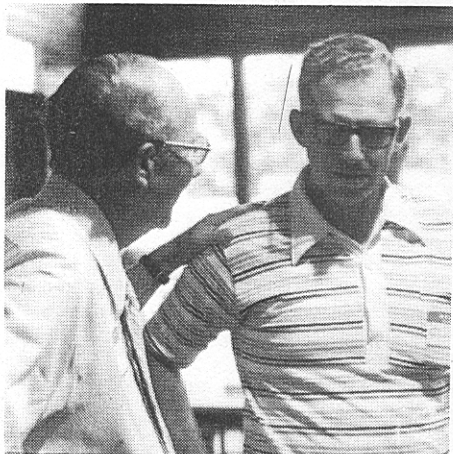
—A call for our Associations and congregations to observe the United Nations' "International Year of Disabled Persons";

—Concern that "the President, the Congress, and the courts of the United States order their priorities in favor of people, and especially of the disadvantaged, the orphaned, the aged, the widowed, the alien within our gates, and the poor;

—Concern about the recent increase of violence and hatred in our society expressed in such ways as the resurgence of racial prejudice and the reappearance of antisemitism — and a call — for the end of violence and the recovery of care and respect for all people;

—Endorsement of the Executive Council resolution on affirmation that of 180 nations, the United States was the only nation which voted against a World Health Organization resolution to condemn promotion and sale of infant formula in underdeveloped nations.

It was requested that in future years all resolutions be received at the Conference Office no later than 8 weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.



DR. W. J. ANDES (I)

Andes Brings Elon Appeal

Almost exactly a year after retiring as Conference Minister of the Southeast Conference, a post he had held for 14 years, Dr. William J. Andes returned to the 1981 Annual Meeting of the Conference to deliver an appeal from Elon Home for Children, Elon College, N.C., where he is now serving part-time as a development officer.

Following a film that beautifully told the Elon Home for Children story, Dr. Andes outlined the Diamond Jubilee celebration to be held in 1982, marking 75 years of service to the community. In response, Southern and Southeast Conference churches are being urged to make Elon Home part of their yearly giving.



The Southeast Conference Annual Meeting brings together old and new friends from six southern states.

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OTU Graduation Heated by Variety of Degrees

The 15th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference provided a convenient excuse for Ole Thermometer U to hold its memorably forgettable. Graduation Ceremonies for yet another year. Meeting in the confines of the LaGrange College Dining Room, OTU turned up the heat and otherwise "laid it on" four unsuspecting, but nevertheless well deserving candidates whose activities, or lack thereof, had extinguished them in the year past.

Highlighting this year's ceremonies was a special presentation to retiring Concert Master, Glee Club Leader and college custodian Dr. Al K. Hall. While the concert choir and college quartet, composed of seven altos, hummed "Now Thank We All Our God," Dr. Hall turned over his baton, pitch pipe and #6 pipe wrench to his musical replacement, Dr. I.F. (Ivory Fingers) Chandler who celebrated his appointment by buying a horn and wearing his little blue suit.

Adding color to this year's ceremonies was the college's R.O.T.C. drill squad dressed in their camouflage uniforms of chartreuse and plaid. Hired by the Board of Trustees to keep potential degree recipients from bolting out doors or lunging out windows, the squad enlivened the evening by rearranging the dining room ceiling with an unusual indoor version of the 21 gun salute.

Doing his best to upstage the drill squad, Dean Blankenhorn prevailed by bestowing — and even giving away — degrees to the following chosen few:

For his adeptness at college administration in spite of ecclesiastical authority, Rev. James Myers was awarded the Doctor of Bituminous Malifluosity. Caught totally unaware, Audrey Livingston was awarded the Doctori Pleasentibus Agilibus Moderatrix, a degree of which she was



(Above) Retiring band leader Rev. Walter Hall. (Below) Dean Blankenhorn nabs a degree candidate trying to tip-toe out the door.



guilty before being proven innocent.

Found in a corner with his "How To Speak Southin" book, Rev. Ira Chace was charged with a Doctor of Co-Pedal Lanean Perigrination. And rounding out the degree recipients was Dr. George Otto, who was made a steward of the Doctorate of Extraordinary Theology of the Exchequer.

After chastising the degree recipients, Dean Blankenhorn led in the singing of the Alley Parent after which he charged recipients to go home and sin no more.



Receiving OTU degrees are Rev. Ira Chace [l] and Rev. James Myers [r].

Pilgrimage Closes Charter

On June 7, 1981 Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, located in Marietta, GA, closed its Charter. A new church start of the Southeast Conference, the church registered some 128 persons as charter members.

Of that number, some 83 are adults, representing 42 households. The church has 45 young people of which 13 are high school age.

During the coming year, the church, which currently meets in a bowling alley meeting room, lists its priorities as growth, building preparation and continually doing the good news.

Rev. Ira Chace is the church's pastor.

When the Church Limp, Rather Than Runs

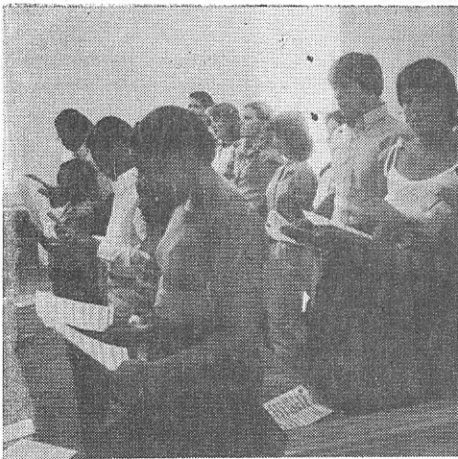
Admittedly, the Church doesn't always show up well when judged by the world's standards of success. Very often its goals are uncertain, its programs understaffed, and its budget undersubscribed. More often than not the church limps when it should be running and leaping along.

We are reminded here, however, of something said by Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick. Keeping in mind that the Church is far from perfect, he remarked that "whenever I meet an American who thinks that the Church is unimportant, I refer him to the totalitarian dictatorships. See how they have tried to curb the Church and repress it, how they have imprisoned its priests and ministers, circumscribed its work, or utterly destroyed it!"

"There is something in the Church of Christ they do not like. It stands for something they do not stand for — the sacredness of human personality. It believes something they do not believe — the purpose of the living God for all mankind. It is something that they are not — an international fellowship out of every tongue, tribe, people, and nation. It contradicts them at point."

Let us not forget for a moment that God has a hand in the work of the Church. That is why it is important, and that is why its work is a great work. If we are disturbed — as we ought to be — over some of the conditions within the Church which cause it to limp rather than run, then we need to throw our influence on the side of the forces that will make for strength and stability.

— Robert Dana



Youth choir singing at Sunday morning worship.

Study on Adolescence Done

A dozen educators and youth leaders from the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries will soon be participating in an advisory council for a new, major national study on the values and attitudes of early adolescents.

The study, being undertaken by Search Institute in Minneapolis, will investigate the changing value systems and attitudes of children of ages 10 through 14. In addition, the study will look at the accompanying stress experienced by parents of such children.

"Early adolescence," according to originators of the project, "is the beginning of a watershed age when life directions are being taken. To the dismay of many, behavior problems such as crime, violence, vandalism, alcohol and drug usage, sexual deviancy, and suicide increasingly are being associated with this age group."

Dr. Merton Strommen, President of Search Institute, notes that information gathered in the study will be used to develop programs that will make a positive impact on early adolescents and their parents.

UCBHM Offers "Mission Diary"

The work of the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries goes on throughout the United States every day, every night, around the clock. Interesting examples of these ministries are detailed in the recently published *Mission Diary*, which is available to UCC members free upon request. Write: UCBHM, 132 West 31st Street, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Youth Enjoy Activities

Nearly 50 young people were in attendance at the 1981 Southeast Conference Annual Meeting and conference organizers were ready for them!

Some 15 young people from nearby churches were on hand throughout the registration process to help carry luggage and direct delegates to their lodging.

On Friday evening a band was on hand to play and was followed on Saturday during the afternoon free time with an outing at an area lake and park area.

On Saturday evening the youth participated in a "Youth Rap" with Southeast Conference Minister, Dr. Emmett Floyd, during which suggestions for future conference-wide activities were aired and discussed. Dr. Floyd indicated that while funding was not available this year, application to UCBHM has been made for matching programming funds for the coming year.

Forming a special youth choir, the young people performed two numbers during the closing worship service of the conference.

In other action Trudi Sanford and Debbie Schafer were cited for special praise for their contributions to the conference youth work during the previous year.

Something To Think About

We cannot spell CH RCH without U.
We cannot spell AD LT without U.
We cannot spell YO TH without U.
We cannot spell M SIC without U.
We cannot spell S NDAY without U.



A youth band played on Friday night.

New AV Materials Available

The following audio-visual materials are now available for use through the Conference Office;

- Sharing (f-OGHS) (2 copies) (film-strip)
- Witness in the Americas (Mission in Latin America) (filmstrip)
- That Something More (filmstrip)
- Eyewitness to Suffering (filmstrip)
- You Give Them Something to Eat (2 copies) (filmstrip)
- Bible Story A-V kit f-young children sfs - The Baby and the Shepherd - God and Noah
- Our Journey - multi media kit on the roots of our religion
- Family Suitcase - reproduceable materials relating to the family

To borrow these AV resources, write to: Laura Long, c-o Southeast Conference Office, United Church of Christ, P. O. Box 29883, Atlanta, GA 30359.



East Alabama youth helped delegates with directions, baggage and transportation.

Church, State and Economics

Ann and Timothy Morrison, UCC missionaries in Ghana write that the church as well as the state are charged with responsibility for economics.

"Many people write to us about the economic woes in the United States. We in turn tell of worse conditions here in Ghana. It is interesting to note how the two countries tackle their economic problems. One difference is quite apparent: in Ghana the church is challenged and called upon by the government to help overcome the difficulties.

"From the president down, Ghanaian government officials encourage the churches and mosques to do all they can to instill in the people solid virtues and morals. Economic policies of the government cannot succeed if, in their hearts and minds, people are not concerned about the needs of others. This is the business of religion and specifically of the Christian church.

"In the midst of economic darkness, the government and the people accept the church as being an agent of light. The church may not be able to provide material help, but it can challenge the attitude of individuals whose actions may fuel the fire of economic woe. The church can give strength and support to those who seek to help one another more than to gain wealth. The church is indeed a light in the darkness."

Perhaps the United States has some lessons to learn from Ghana — lessons that are religious as well as political!



Delegates Lois and A.D. Harry



Saturday evening banquet

COCU To Sponsor Workshop

A special gathering on language and liturgy has been announced by the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) for November 15-17, 1981 at Scarritt College in Nashville, TN.

The Language and Liturgy Consultation will involve specialists in hymnody, Biblical studies, worship, church journalism, Christian education, women's work and other interesting areas. Registration, including room and board for two days, will be \$100.

The gathering was planned by the Women's Task Force and the Worship Commission of COCU, and others with a particular concern about language and its influence on the worship, ministry, and mission of the church. Janet Penfield of Princeton chairs the ad hoc group.

COCU, in one of its documents, alerted churches to the hindrance to church union posed by language, saying, "We believe that language is a key to understanding and shaping people's perception of themselves. Language is formative."

Information on the meeting can be obtained from the Consultation on Church Union, 228 Alexander Street, Princeton, N.J. 08540.

Social Justice Advocated

"Social justice is not simply an abstract ideal. It is a sensible way of making life more livable for everyone. Thus, for the developed nations to do more to assist the developing countries is not merely the right thing to do, it is also increasingly the economically advantageous thing to do."

—Robert McNamara
President, World Bank

Haverstick Announces Retirement

John M. Haverstick, New York City, has retired from his post as editor-in-chief of publications for the United Church of Christ's Stewardship Council. He has served 19 years as editor, writer, designer and producer of publications for the Council.

Prior to his appointment to the Council in 1962, Mr. Haverstick was editor for Holt, Rhinehart and Winston Inc., New York City, from 1961-62 and editor-in-chief and vice-president of Frederick A. Praeger Inc. (now Praeger Publishers), New York, from 1958-61.

He was writer and editor for *Saturday Review* from 1954-57 and for *Life* from 1942-49. During World War II, Mr. Haverstick was national news editor, Alaska correspondent and chief of the Washington bureau of *Yank, The Army Weekly*.



Some 248 persons registered for the Annual Meeting.



Some of the 270 people present on May 31 for the dedication of facilities at Fairfield Glade Community Church, Fairfield Glade, TN.

N-E-W-S and N-O-T-E-S

Congratulations to Virginia and Frank McCamey who recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. Virginia is secretary for Rev. Joyce Myers, Southeastern OCLL staff in Atlanta, and also provides part-time office help for the Southeast Conference.

Ralph and Louisa Galt, UCC missionaries, will be home in Birmingham, AL, on vacation from their work at Yu Shan Theological Institute in Taiwan. On July 17 they will address a combined meeting of Birmingham First and Pilgrim churches to tell about their work in Taiwan.

Dwight Holcombe, formerly of St. John's UCC in Cullman, AL, is now serving as the Vacation Bible School Director for Lanett Congregational Christian UCC in Lanett, AL.

Dr. Kelly Miller Smith, well known Nashville, TN, minister and human rights leader, was the speaker at the April

Commencement exercises at LeMoyne-Owen College. Located in Memphis, TN, LeMoyne-Owen is a college related to the United Church of Christ.

Congratulations to Rev. Lee Gable and his wife Ann who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 30th. The Gables live in Pleasant Hill, TN.

St. John's UCC, Cullman, AL, set a new record this year for participants in Vacation Bible School with 130 children grades nursery through 8 and 11 teachers.

Several members of Central UCC, Atlanta, GA, attended the June 30th Vigil in Washington, D.C. in support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Chattanooga Pilgrim UCC held a Bon Voyage party for minister Dr. David Beebe and family prior to their summer trip to Denmark to visit family relatives.

About to Retire?

Wondering what to do in the two or three years before you retire? Feel that you're in the prime of life and ready to share your experience in a new setting? Always wanted to travel with enough time to get to know another culture? If you are a teacher of secondary-school English, mathematics, or science, adventure may await you in Turkey.

The United Church of Christ is related to three English-language secondary schools in Turkey which are looking for persons who can teach two or more years before they reach age 65 (when Turkish law requires retirement). The schools not only offer a living allowance; they'll also provide housing, transportation to and from Turkey, medical insurance, and US Social Security.

For more information write: Overseas Personnel Office, United Church Board for World Ministries, 475 Riverside Drive, New York, NY 10115.



Close to 100 persons were present on June 7 from the 3 Nashville UCC churches - Howard, First and Brookmeade - for Nature Sunday worship and picnic held at a local park.

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